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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/020,102	12/13/2001	Shmuel Shaffer	062891.0655	5797

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EXAMINER

ARMSTRONG, ANGELA A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2626

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/020,102	Applicant(s) SHAFFER ET AL.	
	Examiner ANGELA A. ARMSTRONG	Art Unit 2626	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 January 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5-8,10,11,13-30,32,33 and 35-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5-8,10,11,13-30,32,33 and 35-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 38 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on January 29, 2008, has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

2. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 26-29 and 32-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 26-29 and 32-33 are directed to a computer program. Computer programs claimed as the description or expressions of the programs are not physical “things.” They are neither computer components nor statutory processes, as they are not “acts” being performed. Such claimed computer programs do not define any structural and functional interrelationships between the computer program and other claimed elements of a computer, which permit the computer program’s functionality to be realized. Since a computer program is merely a set of instructions capable of being executed by a computer, the computer program itself is not a process (see USPTO Interim Guidelines for Patent Subject Matter Eligibility) and the Office

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treats a claim for a computer program, without the computer-readable medium needed to realize the computer program's functionality, as nonstatutory functional descriptive material. When a computer program is claimed in a process where the computer is executing the computer program's instructions, the Office treats the claim as a process claim. When a computer program is recited in conjunction with a physical structure, such as a computer memory, the Office treats the claim as a product claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 10-16, and 35-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitchell (US Patent No. 5,799,273) in view of Ball et al (US Patent No. 6,240,391).

3. Regarding claims 1 and 35, Mitchell discloses a system for relating words in an audio file to words in a text file, comprising: retrieving a text file comprising a plurality of textual words (col. 6, lines 20-29); generating an audio file comprising a plurality of audible words based on the text file (col. 6, lines 9-19); storing information relating each audible word to a corresponding textual word (col. 6, lines 48-65); and an electronic marker that indicates the position of the audible word within the text file (abstract; col. 9, lines 13-25 in which Mitchell

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discloses the user can delete and/or insert text and the recognition interface updates the links between the recognized word and the associated audio components such that link data is amended to indicate the correct character position of the word in the text).

Mitchell does not disclose that the electronic marker is within the audio file, however storing markers that link portions of audio and portions of text with the audio file was well known in the art and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to provide for the electronic marker embedded in the audio file that indicates the position of the audible word within the text file so as to aid the user in reviewing the text as the audio is output.

Mitchell does not teach the audio file is generated by converting the textual words to a plurality of audible words, or that the audio file is transmitted or available to a user of a telecommunications device. Ball (col. 4, line 66 to col. 5, line 3; col. 6, lines 23-47; col. 6, lines 51- col. 7, line 6) discloses a system and method for assembling and presenting structured voice mail messages, which implements a telephone/IP server for providing the functions of audio play and record, text-to-speech synthesis, dual-tone multi-frequency (DTMF) (touch-tone) recognition, automatic speech recognition (ASR) processing, and other call control functions necessary for interactive audio services, and specifically teaches the textual messaging elements of the structured voice mail message are converted to a speech signal by a text-to-speech processor, and combined with each other and audio fragments, converted from their data files.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify the system Mitchell to provide the linked audio and text data for transmission to a user of a

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telecommunications device, so as to generate structured voice mail messages so as to provide the voice mail recipient the ability to access any audio, text, video or multi-media type message.

Regarding claim 2, Mitchell discloses the textual words comprise ASCII text (col. 5, lines 59-67).

Regarding claim 3, Mitchell discloses the audio file is stored in the form of a WAV file (col. 6, lines 9-29; col. 13, lines 26-30).

Regarding claim 5, Mitchell discloses the information comprises a file map relating a location of each textual word within the text file to a location of the corresponding audible word in the audio file (col. 6, line 48 to col. 8, line 3).

Regarding claims 6 and 36, Mitchell discloses the method steps are performed by login embodied in a computer readable medium (col. 4, line 66 to col. 5, line 36).

Regarding claim 15, Mitchell discloses a system for relating words in an audio file to words a text file, comprising: retrieving a text file comprising a textual word (col. 6, lines 20-29); generating an audible word corresponding the textual word (col. 6, lines 9-19); storing the audible word in an audio (col. 6, lines 9-29; col. 13, lines 26-30); storing a file map, the file map comprising: a first location locating audible word within the audio file (Figures 3-4; col. 6, line 48 to col. 7, line 30); and a second location locating the textual word within the text file (Figures 3-4; col. 6, line 48 to col. 7, line 30). Mitchell discloses (col. 7, lines 9-10) the word positions are determined by determining the counter number indicating the position of the first character in the text for the word, which reads on initializing and incrementing the counter to identify textual words within the text file.

Mitchell does not teach the audio file is generated by converting the textual words to a plurality of audible words, or that the audio file is transmitted or available to a user of a telecommunications device. Ball (col. 4, line 66 to col. 5, line 3; col. 6, lines 23-47; col. 6, lines 51- col. 7, line 6) discloses a system and method for assembling and presenting structured voice mail messages, which implements a telephone/IP server for providing the functions of audio play and record, text-to-speech synthesis, dual-tone multi-frequency (DTMF) (touch-tone) recognition, automatic speech recognition (ASR) processing, and other call control functions necessary for interactive audio services, and specifically teaches the textual messaging elements of the structured voice mail message are converted to a speech signal by a text-to-speech processor, and combined with each other and audio fragments, converted from their data files.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify the system Mitchell to provide the linked audio and text data for transmission to a user of a telecommunications device, so as to generate structured voice mail messages so as to provide the voice mail recipient the ability to access any audio, text, video or multi-media type message.

Regarding claim 16, Mitchell discloses repeating the steps the method plurality of textual words in the text file (col. 5, line 59 to col. 8, line 3; Figures 3-4).

Regarding claim 10, Mitchell discloses a system for relating words in an audio file to words in a text file, comprising: retrieving a text file comprising a plurality of textual words (col. 6, lines 20-29); generating an audible word corresponding to each textual word (col. 6, lines 9-29); and playing the audible words to a user in real time as the audible words are generated (col. 8, line 52 to 10, line 2); and during the playing of the audible words, determining a current textual word corresponding audible word currently being played (col. 8, line 52 to col. 10, line

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2). Mitchell discloses (col. 7, lines 9-10) the word positions are determined by determining the counter number indicating the position of the first character in the text for the word, which reads on initializing and incrementing the counter to identify textual words within the text file.

Mitchell does not teach the audio file is generated by converting the textual words to a plurality of audible words with each audible word comprising media stream packets, or that the audio file is transmitted or available to a user of a telecommunications device. Ball (col. 4, line 66 to col. 5, line 3; col. 6, lines 23-47; col. 6, lines 51- col. 7, line 6) discloses a system and method for assembling and presenting structured voice mail messages, which implements a telephone/IP server (and thus providing for the transmission of data that comprises media stream packets) for providing the functions of audio play and record, text-to-speech synthesis, dual-tone multi-frequency (DTMF) (touch-tone) recognition, automatic speech recognition (ASR) processing, and other call control functions necessary for interactive audio services, and specifically teaches the textual messaging elements of the structured voice mail message are converted to a speech signal by a text-to-speech processor, and combined with each other and audio fragments, converted from their data files.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify the system Mitchell to provide the linked audio media stream packets and text data for transmission to a user of a telecommunications device, so as to generate structured voice mail messages so as to provide the voice mail recipient the ability to access any audio, text, video or multi-media type message that has been stored.

Regarding claim 11, Mitchell discloses the textual words comprise ASCII text (col. 5, lines 59-67).

Regarding claim 13, Mitchell discloses storing information about the audible word, the information comprising: an identifier for the textual word corresponding the audible word (col. 6, line 48 to col. 8, line 3); and a time at which the audible word was played (col. 6, line 48 to col. 8, line 3; Figures 3-4).

Regarding claim 14, Mitchell discloses the method steps are performed by login embodied in a computer readable medium (col. 4, line 66 to col. 5, line 36).

5. Claims 7-8, 17, 30, and 32-33, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitchell and Ball in view of Dionne (US Patent No. 6,068,487) and further in view of Frulla et al (US Patent No. 6,424,357).

6. Regarding claims 7, 17, 30 and 32, Mitchell discloses a system for relating words in an audio file to words a text file, comprising: retrieving a text file comprising a textual word (col. 6, lines 20-29); generating an audible word corresponding the textual word (col. 6, lines 9-19); storing the audible word in an audio (col. 6, lines 9-29; col. 13, lines 26-30); storing a file map, the file map comprising: a first location locating audible word within the audio file (Figures 3-4; col. 6, line 48 to col. 7, line 30); and a second location locating the textual word within the text file (Figures 3-4; col. 6, line 48 to col. 7, line 30). Mitchell discloses (col. 7, lines 9-10) the word positions are determined by determining the counter number indicating the position of the first character in the text for the word, which reads on initializing and incrementing the counter to identify textual words within the text file.

Mitchell does not teach the audio file is generated by converting the textual words to a plurality of audible words, or that the audio file is transmitted or available to a user of a telecommunications device. Ball (col. 4, line 66 to col. 5, line 3; col. 6, lines 23-47; col. 6, lines 51- col. 7, line 6) discloses a system and method for assembling and presenting structured voice mail messages, which implements a telephone/IP server for providing the functions of audio play and record, text-to-speech synthesis, dual-tone multi-frequency (DTMF) (touch-tone) recognition, automatic speech recognition (ASR) processing, and other call control functions necessary for interactive audio services, and specifically teaches the textual messaging elements of the structured voice mail message are converted to a speech signal by a text-to-speech processor, and combined with each other and audio fragments, converted from their data files. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify the system Mitchell to provide the linked audio and text data for transmission to a user of a telecommunications device, so as to generate structured voice mail messages so as to provide the voice mail recipient the ability to access any audio, text, video or multi-media type message.

Mitchell does not teach that the system identifies an audible word to be spelled in response to the command to spell; identifies a textual word in a text file corresponding to the audible word to be spelled; and audibly spell the textual word. Dionne teaches a method for having a reading machine spell a word, which includes retrieving a word to be spelled, displaying letters of the word, spelling the word and provides a text-to-speech output of the word (col. 3, lines 8-34). Dionne teaches that the system is useful in assisting individuals with learning disabilities or severe visual impairments.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify the system of Mitchell to provide the spelling of words in the text, to aid in the editing of recognized text and in the correcting of recognition errors, for the purpose of assisting individuals with visual impairments with editing of text.

Mitchell and Dionne do not teach the command input to the system is via a voice command. However, implementation of voice commands to allow for system functionality and control similar to that of hand-controlled input devices was well known in the art.

Frulla discloses a voice input system has a microphone coupled to a computing device, with the computing device typically operating a computer software application. A user speaks voice commands into the microphone, with the computing device operating a voice command module that interprets the voice command and causes the graphical or non-graphical application to be commanded and controlled consistent with the use of a physical mouse (Figures 2-3; col. 4, lines 57-64), and specifically teaches the system is advantageous in environments in which it is inconvenient or impractical to use a mouse, and thereby making the user interface more convenient and efficient for a user to input information and commands.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify the system of Mitchell to provide the spelling of words in the text, to aid in the editing of recognized text and in the correcting of recognition errors and to further provide voice command control, as suggested by Frulla, for the purpose of making the user interface more convenient and efficient for a user to input information and commands in situations in which using a physical mouse is impractical or cumbersome.

Regarding claims 8 and 33, Mitchell discloses repeating the steps the method plurality of textual words in the text file (col. 5, line 59 to col. 8, line 3; Figures 3-4).

7. Claims 18-29 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitchell in view of Dionne (US Patent No. 6,068,487) and further in view of Frulla et al (US Patent No. 6,424,357).

8. Regarding claims 18-29, and 37, Mitchell discloses a system which provides a user interface for relating words in an audio file to words a text file, comprising: retrieving a text file comprising a textual word (col. 6, lines 20-29); generating an audible word corresponding the textual word (col. 6, lines 9-19); storing the audible word in an audio (col. 6, lines 9-29; col. 13, lines 26-30); storing a file map, the file map comprising: a first location locating audible word within the audio file (Figures 3-4; col. 6, line 48 to col. 7, line 30); and a second location locating the textual word within the text file (Figures 3-4; col. 6, line 48 to col. 7, line 30). Mitchell discloses (col. 7, lines 9-10) the word positions are determined by determining the counter number indicating the position of the first character in the text for the word, which reads on initializing and incrementing the counter to identify textual words within the text file.

Mitchell does not disclose that the electronic marker is within the audio file, however storing markers that link portions of audio and portions of text with the audio file was well known in the art and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to provide for the electronic marker embedded in the audio file that indicates the position of the audible word within the text file so as to aid the user in reviewing the text as the audio is output.

Mitchell does not teach that the system identifies an audible word to be spelled in response to the command to spell; identifies a textual word in a text file corresponding to the audible word to be spelled; and audibly spell the textual word. Dionne teaches a method for having a reading machine spell a word, which includes retrieving a word to be spelled, displaying letters of the word, spelling the word and provides a text-to-speech output of the word (col. 3, lines 8-34). Dionne teaches that the system is useful in assisting individuals with learning disabilities or severe visual impairments.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify the system of Mitchell to provide the spelling of words in the text, to aid in the editing of recognized text and in the correcting of recognition errors, for the purpose of assisting individuals with visual impairments with editing of text.

Mitchell and Dionne do not teach the command input to the system is via a voice command. However, implementation of voice commands to allow for system functionality and control similar to that of hand-controlled input devices was well known in the art.

Frulla discloses a voice input system has a microphone coupled to a computing device, with the computing device typically operating a computer software application. A user speaks voice commands into the microphone, with the computing device operating a voice command module that interprets the voice command and causes the graphical or non-graphical application to be commanded and controlled consistent with the use of a physical mouse (Figures 2-3; col. 4, lines 57-64), and specifically teaches the system is advantageous in environments in which it is inconvenient or impractical to use a mouse, and thereby making the user interface more convenient and efficient for a user to input information and commands.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to modify the system of Mitchell to provide the spelling of words in the text, to aid in the editing of recognized text and in the correcting of recognition errors and to further provide voice command control, as suggested by Frulla, for the purpose of making the user interface more convenient and efficient for a user to input information and commands in situations in which using a physical mouse is impractical or cumbersome.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed January 29, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to provide the linked audio media stream packets and text data for transmission to a user of a telecommunications device, so as to generate structured voice mail messages so as to provide the voice mail recipient the ability to access any audio, text, video or multi-media type message that has been stored.

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claim 38 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANGELA A. ARMSTRONG whose telephone number is (571)272-7598. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 11:30-8:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick N. Edouard can be reached on 571-272-7603. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Angela A Armstrong/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2626